



THE WORLD BRIDGE FEDERATION

**MINUTES OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia  
Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 – 10:00**

**In Attendance**

Mr Gianarrigo Rona, President in the Chair  
Mr José Damiani, President Emeritus

Mrs Sevinç Atay, Member  
Mr Yves Aubry, Member  
Mr Bruce Blakely, Member  
Ms Chen Zelan, Member  
Mr Patrick Choy, Member  
Mr Bill Cook, Member  
Mr Marc De Pauw, Member  
Mr Ernesto d'Orsi, Member  
Mr Jean-Louis Derivery, Member  
Mr David Harris, Member  
Ms Georgia Heth, Member  
Mr Mazhar Jafri, Member  
Mr Paul Janicki, Member  
Mr Radoslaw Kielbasinski, Member  
Mr Al Levy, Member  
Mr Bernard Pascal, Member  
Mr John Wignall, Member

**Also in Attendance**

Mr Jeff Polisner, General Counsel  
Ms Carol von Linstow, Secretary to the Executive Council

**Excused**

Mr Nick Nickell, Member  
Ms Sylvie Willard, Member

**Invited**

Mr Jean-Claude Beineix, Committee of Honour  
Mr Panos Gerontopoulos, Committee of Honour  
Mr George Retek, Committee of Honour  
Mrs Anna Maria Torlontano, Chair of the Women's Committee

The President called the meeting to order at 10:00. He declared that there was a quorum, and the meeting proceeded as follows.

**1. Women's Committee and Online Festival, report by Anna Maria Torlontano – agenda item 23.1**

Mrs Torlontano presented her report from the Women's Committee and Online Festival and this is attached to these Minutes as annex 1-4. The President thanked Mrs Torlontano.

**2. Requirement for participation in Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup – agenda item 15**

Mr Derivery read a letter from the President of Zone 5 requesting that an exception be made to this rule so that as long as at least one country from the Zone has participated in the World Games, then the country that wins the Zonal Championship may participate in the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup whether they participated in the World Games or not.

There was considerable discussion on this proposed amendment to the General Conditions of Contest with some in favour and some against.

The President advised that from 2016, in the World Series there will be a new official national pairs' event during the second week. He suggested that if an NBO sends at least one pair to that event they should be eligible to participate in the Bermuda Bowl & Venice Cup.

This will be referred to the Rules and Regulations Committee but was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer proposed a hardship exemption from the World Games entry fee for one pair from each NBO if it is applied for. This was approved unanimously and the Executive passed the following resolution:

*The Executive Council approved the waiver of entry fees in the new national pairs' games to be played at the World Bridge Games for one specific pair from each NBO. To receive the waiver, the NBO will need to file an application with the WBF setting forth the need for a hardship subsidy to be able to send a pair, for either the Open or Women's pairs' event at the World Bridge Games, to be allowed to play with the entry fee waived. Only one subsidy per NBO will be approved.*

The Executive Council approved a new procedure to qualify to play in either the Bermuda Bowl "BB" or the Venice Cup "VC" without having participated in the previous World Bridge Games. Presently, an NBO can regain eligibility by having at least two pairs play in the World Open Pairs or at least one team play in the Rosenblum Teams for the BB and at least two pairs play in the World Women's Pairs or at least one team play in the McConnell Teams for the VC.

The new procedure, effective immediately, reduces the number of pairs necessary from two pairs to one pair and will end in 2015.

Effective in 2016, an NBO that has not played in the corresponding event in the previous World Bridge Games may regain eligibility to play in the next two BBs

or VCs by having one pair play in the World Bridge Games' new pairs' events at the World Bridge Games in the appropriate category.

### **3. WADA matters & IOC Health Questionnaire – agenda item 17**

The President welcomed Dr Paulo Gabriele, Chairman of the Medical Commission and Dr Giovanni Capelli to the meeting. Mr Gabriele gave a presentation on the work of the WBF Medical & Prevention Commission while Mr Capelli gave a presentation on the activities of the Medical Commission and, in particular, the survey that had been undertaken in Lille in 2012 with selected players from 18 countries and the data obtained which was subsequently analysed.

Mr Levy asked whether this had been published. This has not happened so far as it is the property of the WBF. He congratulated the Medical Commission and said that he was confident that both WADA and the IOC will have noticed that the WBF is taking this issue very seriously. Mr Damiani asked if the Commission could also do a survey of the other members of IMSA and thanked them in advance.

The Executive Council congratulated the Medical Commission for the excellent job they had done.

### **Victory Points**

Mr d'Orsi reported that the change in the Victory Points scale has been well-received by the players in Bali although there has been one complaint. It is difficult to understand for non-bridge players but they will learn. The new scale was unanimously confirmed.

### **4. WBF Simultaneous Tournaments – agenda item 16.5**

Mrs Anna Gudge gave her report which is attached as annex 4-4. The President thanked Mrs Gudge for all the hard work that she does.

### **5. Zonal Presidents' Report – agenda item 22**

#### *Zone 3*

Mr d'Orsi presented a short report which is attached as annex 5-4a and the President thanked him for his report.

#### *Zone 1*

Mr Aubry read his report, which is attached as annex 5-4b, outlining the activities and future events in his zone. The President thanked Mr Aubry for his very detailed report.

#### *Zone 2*

Mr Cook read his report and passed on the greetings of the ACBL Board to the Executive. His report is attached as annex 5-4c. The President thanked Mr Cook.

#### *Zone 4*

Mr Jafri read the report on behalf of the President of Zone 4. This is attached as annex 5-4d. The President thanked Mr Jafri for his report.

#### *Zone 7*

Mr Wignall read his report which is attached as annex 5-4e. The President thanked Mr Wignall and congratulated Zone 7 on sending a Youth Team to participate in Istanbul in 2014.

#### *Zone 8*

Mr Pascal presented his report which is attached as annex 5-4f. He advised the Council that there are still on-going problems with Kenya. The President thanked Mr Pascal for his report.

#### *Zone 5*

Mr Derivery read the report for Zone 5 which is attached as annex 5-4g. He apologized that the President, Sheena Rayner, had been unable to attend. He congratulated Jackie Thompson for doing a very good job with the youth. The President thanked Mr Derivery for the report and noted that Grenada might become a new member.

#### *Zone 6*

Mrs Esther Sophonpanich, President of Zone 6, read her report which is attached as annex 5-4f. In some of the countries, such as Cambodia, Vietnam and Brunei, it is very difficult to find local bridge players. The President thanked Mrs Sophonpanich and said that he was very impressed by the growth of the youth in Zone 6.

\*\*\*\*\*

The meeting recessed for lunch and resumed at 14:30. Mr d'Orsi was excused and Mrs Esther Sophonpanich joined the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Minutes of the first three meetings held in Bali were circulated and were approved with some minor changes.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **6. Laws Committee Report – agenda item 23.3**

Mr Ton Kooijman joined the meeting and reported on the first meeting of the Laws Committee. He first asked for the approval of the Council to appoint Mr Grattan Endicott, who has decided to retire, as Honorary Secretary of the Laws Committee and for the President to write to him to thank him for his years of work and to tell him that he has been appointed as Honorary Secretary. This was unanimously approved by acclamation. He also requested the approval of the appointment of Laurie Kelso not only as a full member but also as the new Secretary. This was approved.

The Council also approved the new wording of Law 21.B2 as follows:

*Law 21.B2 – When a player elects not to change a call because of misinformation, Law 16D will still apply. The situation is analogous to the withdrawal of an original call followed by the subsequent replacement of the same call. Information arising from inferences that only become available because of the correction of misinformation is authorized to the non-offending side, but unauthorized to the offending side.*

On motion duly made and seconded, the report was approved by the Council and the President thanked Mr Kooijman for the work of the Committee.

**7. Proposal of agreement from Jannersten Förlag & Terry Collier – agenda item 24**

There are two proposals for the supply of Dealing Machines from Jannersten Förlag & Terry Collier. The President feels that the collaboration with Jannersten has been very good for many years and that his proposal is useful and interesting. The Council mandated the President to find the best solution in discussion with the Championship Committee and the Treasurer.

**8. WBF Championship's broadcasting and Internet Tournaments: proposal from Ourgame – agenda item 25**

A partnership proposal from Ourgame was discussed at length. It would involve Online bridge and Master Points. In view of our long collaboration with other online providers, it was decided to see if any had similar ideas. The proposal will also have to be checked by the lawyers to ensure that it would not have an adverse effect on our tax position in Switzerland. It was finally decided to carry on discussing the proposal next week.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:45 to be reconvened at 10:00 on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September.